

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 CU-02 /060 W
-----151042Z 087673 /17

R 141600Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL TURIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0698
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TRIESTE

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ROME PLEASE POUCH TRIESTE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: DATE SET FOR TURIN MUNICIPAL WARD (QUARTIERI) ELECTIONS

REF TURIN 0048 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. TURIN CITY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES THAT POSTPONED
WARD ELECTIONS (QUARTIERI) NOW SET FOR BEGINNING OF OCTOBER.
NEW DATE SEEN AS TIMELY IN VIEW OF TRADITIONAL POLITICAL
ACTIVISM ON PART OF ITALIAN POPULATION IN GENERAL DURING
FALL PERIOD. DECISION ALSO SEEN AS TACTICAL MOVE ON PART OF
PCI TO CONSOLIDATE POWER BASE IN VIEW OF RECENT POLITICAL
REALIGNMENT WITHIN YOUNGER RANKS OF PARTY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS A RESULT OF A UNANIMOUS DECISION ON THE PART OF VARIOUS
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MUNICIPAL POLITICAL FACTIONS AND CITY ADMINISTRATORS,
TURIN MAYOR DIEGO NOVELLI RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT TURIN'S LONG
DELAYED WARD (QUARTIERI) ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 30, 1977.
MAYOR NOVELLI INDICATED THAT THE PROPOSED DATE WAS SELECTED IN AN
EFFORT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TIME FOR ORGANIZATION. IN ADDITION,
MAYOR INDICATED DATE WOULD ALSO MAKE SAME ELECTION MACHINERY
AVAILABLE FOR SCHOLASTIC DISTRICT ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

NOVEMBER 13 AND THUS SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE CITY'S ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

3. SHOULD THE QUARTIERI ELECTIONS BE CONDUCTED AS PLANNED, THEY WILL SET IN OPERATION FOR THE FIRST TIME THE FUNCTIONS OF THIS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED POLITICAL ENTITY. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE QUARTIERI WILL ENCOMPASS PROVIDING ADEQUATE GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY, MECIAL FACILITIES, AS WELL AS CULTURAL, SCHOLASTIC, ATHLETIC AND RECREATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

4. COMMENT:

A. IT WOULD SEEM THAT SPECULATION SUGGESTING TURIN LEFTIST GIUNTA DELAY IN CONDUCTING QUARTIERI ELECTIONS WAS RESULT OF LACK OF PARTY TALENT TO HOLD AVAILABLE POSITIONS IS NO LONGER VALID IF CITY GOVERNMENT PLANS TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH ELECTION DATE AS INDICATED. MAYOR NOVELLI HAS INDICATED TO PRESS THAT WHILE ELECTION DATE IS TENTATIVE, POSSIBILITIES OF ANOTHER POSTPONEMENT ARE MARGINAL. THIS STATEMENT WOULD TEND TO NEGATE SPECULATION THAT COMMUNISTS ARE AFRAID OF THEIR POSSIBLE LACK OF STRENGTH IN UP-COMING ELECTIONS. MORE PLAUSIBLE THEORY WOULD BE THAT COMMUNISTS ARE NOW ANXIOUS TO HOLD ELECTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF APPARENT RECONSIDERATION OF POLITICAL ALIGNMNTS WHICH FOR NOW APPEARS SOLELY TO BE CONCENTRATED WITHIN THE STUDENT MOVEMENT BUT COULD ALSO AFFECT THE GRASSROOTS OF THE PARTY.

B. IN DISCUSSION AT CONSULATE WITH MARIO DEAGLIO, ECONOMIC EDITOR FOR LA STAMPA, HE CONFIRMED CONTENTION PCI FEAR OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOSS OF CREDIBILITY AND THEREFORE ANXIOUS TO CONDUCT ELECTIONS. IN THIS REGARD, HE NOTED THAT WHEN QUARTIERI WERE FIRST FORMED IN APRIL 1976 GENERAL ENTHUSIASM WAS VERY HIGH. WARD MEETINGS NOW, HOWEVER, ARE ATTENDED BY LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF CITY POPULATION. DEAGLIO ALSO STATED THAT TURIN LEFTIST GIUNTA HAD SELECTED TIMELY PERIOD TO HOLD ELECTIONS POINTING OUT THAT TURIN COMMUNITY WOULD JUST BE RETURING FROM SUMMER VACATIONS, SCHOOLS WOULD BE OPENING AND RENTS WOULD BE DUE PROVIDING NECESARY ATMOSPHERE AND SENSITIVITY TO ELECTIONS. HE NOTED THAT HISTORICALLY ITALIAN POPULATION HAS BEEN MOST POLITICALLY ACTIVE DURING SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER PERIOD. MCKINLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTION FORECASTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TURIN00185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770131-0540
Format: TEL
From: TURIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770455/aaaabvum.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dc2223a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TURIN 48
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2800796
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DATE SET FOR TURIN MUNICIPAL WARD (QUARTIERI) ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc2223a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009